

U.S. Serial No. 10/737,406
Filed: December 16, 2003

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S. P. Kayes

REMARKS

This Amendment is being filed along with a Request for Continued Examination and in response to the outstanding Office Action dated August 10, 2006. A fee for a three (3) month extension of time is being filed herewith. Reconsideration and allowance of the application in view of the amendments made above and remarks to follow is earnestly solicited.

An Information Disclosure Statement is also being submitted herewith.

Applicants again note with appreciation that claims 1 and 4 have been indicated as being allowed. The Examiner is thanked for this notification.

However, the device claims, namely claims 2-3 and 5-10 remain rejected as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,335,211 ("Muto et al"). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

In particular, Applicants respectfully submit that independent claims 2 and 3 have now been amended to more affirmatively recite the operation of the stepper motor. For example, claim 2 has been amended to recite that the claimed stepping motor has a rotor that rotates in the first direction the total number of claimed steps (as set forth in the claim) such that the channel abuts against the tab, further rotates a predetermined number of additional steps in the first direction, and thereafter, rotates in the opposite direction the same number of steps needed from when the display hand would be at the initial position on the display to the position such that the channel abuts against the tab. Claim 3 has been similarly amended, although with reference to the tab/stopper configuration.

Applicants respectfully submit that Muto et al do not describe structure or a device that performs or is capable of performing as now recited in independent claims 2 and 3. Among other things, Applicants respectfully submit that Muto et al do not describe or suggest a stepping motor that "overrotates" a number of additional steps in the first direction even after the channel abuts the tab (or the tab abuts against the stopper, as set forth in claim 3). Support for this amendment may be found, for example, at page 9, lines 16-17. Such a feature provides increased assurance that the display hand will be properly

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calibrated. Based thereon, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and the withdrawal of the rejection to independent claims 2 and 3.

For the foregoing reasons, Applicants respectfully submit that independent claims 2 and 3 are now in condition for allowance and notice to this effect is respectfully requested. Additionally, Applicants respectfully submit that dependent claims 5-10, which depend therefrom, are also now in condition for allowance and notice to this effect is respectfully requested.

Applicants have made a sincere and diligent effort to place this application in condition for immediate allowance and notice to this effect is earnestly solicited. However, if any issues still remain, the Examiner is respectfully requested to telephone the undersigned to resolve such issues prior to issuing another office action.

Early and favorable action is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

By: 
Arthur G. Schaier, Reg. 37,715
Attorney for Applicant(s)
Carmody & Torrance LLP
50 Leavenworth Street
P.O. Box 1110
Waterbury, CT 06721-1110
(203) 575-2629